

INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Induced Termination of Pregnancy Surveillance

An *induced termination (abortion)* is the intentional interruption of a pregnancy with the objective of preventing a live birth. Abortion surveillance provides information useful in identifying population groups experiencing unintended pregnancies. Such information is valuable in targeting pregnancy prevention programs.

Source of Data: Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy

Induced termination information presented in this report is gathered from data recorded on *Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy* certificates for abortions that occurred in Louisiana in the 1999 calendar year. All original Induced Termination certificates are routed to the Vital Records Registry in New Orleans. Data are recorded on the certificates by the attending physician. Louisiana law requires that each induced termination of pregnancy that occurs in the state be reported to the Vital Records Registry by the attending physician within 15 days of the pregnancy termination.

Although some states notify Louisiana of out-of-state pregnancy terminations obtained by Louisiana residents, Louisiana cannot reciprocate this action. A federal court decision prohibits the collection of residency information on women who terminate pregnancies within the state. Hence, no accurate counts of the number of terminations among Louisiana residents are available. Counts used in this chapter represent terminations that occurred in Louisiana, and include out-of-state residents who obtained induced terminations in Louisiana.

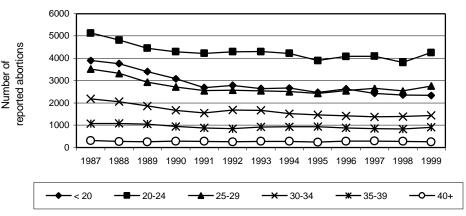
INDUCED TERMINATION COUNTS

There were 12,008 induced terminations of pregnancy reported in Louisiana in 1999. The number of induced terminations reported in Louisiana declined by 25% between 1987 and 1991, and has remained stable throughout the 1990s.

The age group encompassing women aged 20-24 is historically, the group with the highest number of abortions. In 1999 women in this age group accounted for approximately one-third (35.4%) of all abortions.

Women aged <15 years obtained 1% of all abortions.

Figure A1. Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Age Group Reported Occurences in Louisiana, 1987-1999



The largest decline in the annual number of reported abortions in the

1990s has been in women under 20 years of age (Figure A1, Table A1).

Table A1. Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Age Group Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1987-1999

		Age in Years												
Year	Total	Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unknown				
1987	16246	181	3715	5133	3518	2184	1070	297	12	136				
1988	15367	187	3577	4815	3325	2056	1075	247	19	66				
1989	14210	171	3236	4446	2929	1864	1048	245	10	261				
1990	13020	150	2934	4287	2716	1670	938	267	14	44				
1991	12190	128	2562	4221	2549	1543	878	260	13	36				
1992	12468	191	2597	4288	2571	1683	838	237	15	48				
1993	12373	157	2487	4300	2543	1667	917	259	15	28				
1994	12154	169	2500	4215	2505	1517	929	257	17	45				
1995	11491	141	2333	3895	2428	1468	936	226	11	53				
1996	11884	143	2489	4083	2553	1417	876	262	16	45				
1997	11739	147	2285	4087	2650	1375	849	265	22	59				
1998	11351	120	2238	3818	2538	1386	829	262	13	147				
1999	12008	103	2234	4253	2761	1435	903	236	13	70				

In 97% of reported abortions, no reason was listed for seeking the procedure (Table A2).

Table A2.
Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Reason of Abortion and Age
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1999

		Age												
		Under							45 &					
Reason for Abortion	Total	15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	Older	UnK.				
All reasons	12008	103	2234	4253	2761	1435	903	236	13	70				
Mental health	77	-	5	18	23	17	12	*	-	-				
Physical health	16	-	-	*	*	7	*	-	-	-				
Risk of fetal deformity	9	-	-	*	*	*	*	*	-	-				
Rape or incest	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Other	258	*	46	83	75	28	18	5	-	*				
Unknown	11647	102	2182	4148	2658	1379	869	228	13	68				

[&]quot;*" In cell refers to counts greater than 0 but less than 5.

An *early abortion* is one that is performed at or before 8 weeks gestation. A *late abortion* is one that is performed at or after 16 weeks gestation. There were 5,559 early abortions reported in Louisiana, 46.3% of the total reported. The 981 reported late abortions comprised 8.2% of the total reported. Younger women (under age 20 years) were more likely to obtain late abortions than older women were (*Figure A2*, *Figure A3*, *Table A4*).

Figure A2. Percents of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy by Single Weeks of Gestation at the Time of the Termination Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1999

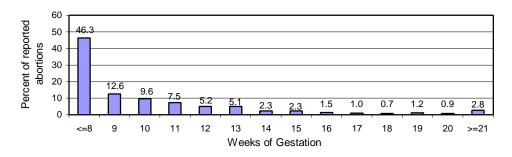
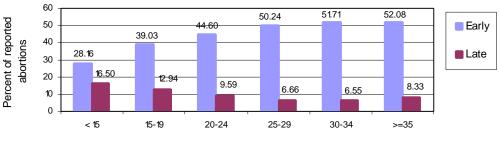


Figure A3. Percents of Women Who Obtained Early* or Late** Abortions by Age Group of Women

Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1999



Age Group in years

^{*}Early abortion occurs at or before 8 weeks of gestation

^{**}Late abortion occurs at or after 16 weeks of gestation

The suction procedure was used in 86.3% of reported abortions in Louisiana (Table A3).

Table A3.
Induced terminations of Pregnancy by Weeks of Gestation and Type of Procedure
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana, 1999

Weeks of		Curet	tage		rauterine stillation			Dilation and		
Gestation	Total	Suction	Sharp	Saline	Prostaglandin	Hysterotomy	Hysterectomy	Evacuation	Other	Unknown
All	12008	10367	52	-	*	-	*	1398	13	176
8 and under	5559	4889	23	-	-	-	*	571	-	75
9	1512	1363	7	-	-	-	-	117	*	24
10	1156	1037	*	-	-	-	-	100	-	16
11	897	814	*	-	-	-	-	67	-	14
12	619	543	5	-	-	-	-	59	-	12
13	611	574	*	-	-	-	-	24	-	9
14	274	240	*	-	-	-	-	25	-	7
15	282	252	5	-	-	-	-	20	-	5
16	178	123	-	-	-	-	-	49	*	5
17	122	63	*	-	-	-	-	55	*	*
18	90	56	-	-	-	-	-	32	*	*
19	149	79	-	-	*	-	-	68	*	-
20	107	65	-	-	-	-	-	39	*	*
21 and over	335	167	-	-	-	-	-	159	6	*
Unknown	117	102	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	*

[&]quot;*" in cell indicates count is greater than 0 and less than 5

Table A4 provides summaries by weeks of gestation, race, age group, and marital status induced terminations reported in Louisiana in 1999.

Table A4.
Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana,1999

						F	∖ge						Marital Status	
Weeks of		ĺ	Under	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45 &				
gestation	Race*	Total	15	19	24	29	34	39	44	Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknown
ALL	ALL	12008	103	2234	4253	2761	1435	903	236	13	70	754	3938	7316
	W	4927	32	958	1578	1107	623	472	129	**	25	422	1763	2742
	NW	6356	67	1157	2443	1481	712	367	90	8	31	244	1807	4305
	UNK	725	*	119	232	173	100	64	17	*	14	88	368	269
8 AND UNDER	ALL	5559	29	872	1897	1387	742	465	127	8	32	372	1745	3442
	W	2489	12	429	782	573	340	261	79	*	11	215	857	1417
	NW	2731	17	399	1013	725	348	169	43	*	13	115	729	1887
	UNK	339	-	44	102	89	54	35	5	*	8	42	159	138

Table A4.
Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana,1999

							Marital Status							
Weeks of			Under	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45 &				
gestation	Race*	Total	15	19	24	29	34	39	44	Older *	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknow
9	ALL	1512	8	267	548	356	187	111	23		10	105	529	87
	W	608	*	123	205	129	82	51	11	*	5	56	227	32
	NW	815	6	127	317	203	91	56 *	9		Ĵ	39	254	52:
	UNK	89	-	17	26	24	14	-	,	-		10	48	3
10	ALL	1156	13	213	402	280	133	84	22	*	7	75	395	686
	W	437	5	80	143	109	47	42	9	*	*	45	160	232
	NW	648	8	121	240	153	75	34	10	*	6	19	196	433
	UNK	71	-	12	19	18	11	8	*	-	-	11	39	2
11	ALL	897	*	199	319	197	92	60	23	-	*	56	295	546
	W	341	-	75	99	83	37	30	14	-	*	28	117	196
	NW	504	*	112	201	104	50	25	9	-	-	20	154	330
	UNK	52	*	12	19	10	5	5	-	-	-	8	24	20
12	ALL	619	9	136	246	119	62	36	6	-	5	31	205	383
	W	221	*	59	76	42	22	15	*	-	*	15	82	124
	NW	351	6	69	154	67	33	17	*	-	*	10	102	239
	UNK	47	*	8	16	10	7	*	*	-	-	6	21	20
13	ALL	611	11	121	235	126	67	34	13	*	*	21	156	434
	W	194	*	34	73	42	24	15	*	-	*	13	66	115
	NW	381	9	80	149	74	40	18	8	*	*	6	71	304
	UNK	36	-	7	13	10	*	*	*	-	-	*	19	15
14	ALL	274	5	72	100	45	30	21	*	-	-	16	85	173
	W	108	*	36	30	15	11	12	*	-	-	5	34	69
	NW	151	*	34	61	28	18	8	-	-	-	7	43	101
	UNK	15	-	*	9	*	*	*	-	-	-	*	8	:
15	ALL	282	7	65	98	67	28	17	-	-	-	13	79	190
	W	94	*	16	35	22	10	10	-	-	-	5	32	57
	NW	178	5	47	61	44	16	5	-	-	-	7	39	132
	UNK	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	*	8	
16	ALL	178	*	43	67	37	14	10	*	-	*	11	52	115
	W	70	*	14	24	17	6	6	*	-	*	6	21	43
	NW	95	*	28	38	18	7	*	-	-	-	*	24	67
	UNK	13	-	*	5	*	*	*	*	-	*	*	7	Ę
17	ALL	122	-	35	44	16	14	10	*	-	-	*	35	83
	W	45	-	12	13	8	6	6	-	-	-	*	16	26
	NW	73	-	22	30	7	8	*	*	-	-	*	16	56
	UNK	1		*	*	*							*	,

Table A4.
Counts of Induced Terminations of Pregnancy
by Weeks of Gestation, Age, Race, and Marital Status
Reported Occurrences in Louisiana,1999

			Age										Marital Status			
Weeks of		1	Under	15-	20-	25-	30-	35-	40-	45 &						
gestation	Race*	Total	15	19	24	29	34	39	44	Older	Unk.	Married	Unmarried	Unknown		
18	ALL	90	*	23	31	23	6	*	*	-	-	*	50	39		
	W	43	*	10	14	11	*	*	*	-	-	*	25	17		
	NW	40	-	10	14	12	*	*	*	-	-	-	19	21		
	UNK	7	-	*	*	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	6	*		
19	ALL	149	*	38	59	22	10	14	*	-	*	9	60	80		
	W	60	-	15	18	12	7	6	*	-	-	5	27	28		
	NW	81	*	21	38	9	*	6	*	-	*	*	29	50		
	UNK	8	-	*	*	*	-	*	-	-	-	*	*	*		
20	ALL	107	*	29	33	19	10	9	*	-	-	11	54	42		
	W	49	-	14	11	9	7	5	*	-	-	10	22	17		
	NW	49	*	14	20	6	*	*	-	-	-	-	25	24		
	UNK	9	*	*	*	*	-	-	*	-	-	*	7	*		
21 AND OVER	ALL	335	9	103	122	46	25	25	*	-	*	21	133	181		
	W	125	*	34	39	27	12	9	*	-	-	12	51	62		
	NW	197	6	64	76	18	13	16	*	-	*	9	71	117		
	UNK	13	-	5	7	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	*		
UNKNOWN	ALL	117	-	18	52	21	15	*	*	-	6	8	65	44		
	W	43	-	7	16	8	8	*	-	-	*	*	26	14		
	NW	62	-	9	31	13	6	*	*	-	-	5	35	22		
	UNK	12	-	*	5	-	*	-	-	-	*	-	*	8		

^{*}W=White NW=Non-white UNK=Unknown

[&]quot;*" in cell indicates count is greater than 0 and less than 5